Connecting Raghunathpur and Siswan Blocks by Railway Line

1666. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated any plan to connect Raghunathpur and Siswan Blocks in Siswan district by railway lines; and

(b) if so, by when these blocks would be provided by railway line facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present, there is no such proposal to connect Raghunathpur and Siswan Blocks of Siswan District by railway line.

Late running of Jaipur bound passsenger trains

†1667. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jaipur bound passenger trains of North-West Railway reach there beyond the scheduled time-table which causes immense inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reason for coming late by there trains is said to be the lack in technical system;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fault in technical system causes due to non-availability of double lanes;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some sections of Western Railway are over saturated and there is a need for triple laning in those sections; and

(e) if so, by when this arrangement would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Jaipur bound trains sometimes reach late due to various factors such as asset failures, miscreant activities alarm chain pulling, natural calamities, damage to track due to breaches, law and order problems, foggy weather, cattle run over, electricity grid failure etc.

(c) No Sir. However the flexibility of alternative line is not available in single line sections.

(d) and (e) Capacity enhancement works like automatic signaling works on Virar-Surat-Vadodara section, provision of additional loop lines on some sections of Mumbai, Vadodara, Ahmedabad and Rajkot divisions and provision of Intermediate Block station on sections of Vadodara and Ratlam division have been sanctioned. At present there is no plan of provision of a third line on any of the non-suburban sections of Western Railway.

Funds by ADB to Indian Railways

1668. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ADB has agreed to provide 800 million dollars to Indian railways for expansion and modernization of network across the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Railways has since chalked out plans to invest the amount given by ADB;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms and conditions of providing fund by ADB to the Indian Railways.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has as yet not agreed to provide second ADB loan. Ministry of Railways is presently in a dialogue with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a possible loan. Railways have posed the following five projects to ADB for possible funding:

1. Daund-Gulbarga Doubling
2. Sambalpur-Titlagarh Doubling
3. Raipur-Titlagarh Doubling
4. Pune-Guntakal RE
5. Hospet-Tinaighat section

Since the loan has not been finalized as yet, details as well as terms and conditions are not available.

Protection of railway properties from Maoists

1669. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maoists have damaged and destroyed railway properties worth crores of rupees in States during the year 2007;

(b) if so, the details of properties destroyed or damaged by Maoists during the year 2007;

(c) whether the Railways has adopted any strategy to protect properties from Maoists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2007, 34 incidents of damage to Railway property by Maoists have been reported in which property worth Rs. 5,86,59,969/- have been destroyed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. "Policing" being a State's subject, prevention, registration and investigation of crime on Railways including running trains is the constitutional responsibility of the States' Governments concerned. However, for better protection of Railway passengers and Railway property, following steps are being taken by Railways:—

1. Close co-ordination is maintained with State Police and Government Railway Police to combat activities of Maoists in vulnerable sections of affected States.